

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 26, 29, 31-35, 37, 38, 40, 42-46, and 50 are amended. Claims 1-25, 36, 48, and 52 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 26-35, 37-47, and 49-51 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31-38, 42-46, and 48 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As part of this Response, claim 36 has been incorporated into its base claim (claim 26). Claims 27-30 and 39 depend from claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 26-30 and 39 are in condition for allowance.

Also as part of this Response, claim 48 has been incorporated into its base claim (claim 40). Claims 41, 47, and 49-52 depend from claim 40. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 40, 41, 47, and 49-51 are in condition for allowance.

Also as part of this Response, each of claims 31-35, 37, 38, and 42-46 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim as well as any intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-35, 37, 38, and 42-46 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103

As part of this Response, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 have either been canceled or amended to include elements of an allowable claim. These

cancellations and amendments have been made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims. These cancellations and amendments have not been made to overcome, and should not be interpreted as having been made to overcome, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.

Conclusion

Claims 26-35, 37-47, and 49-51 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 11/15/04

By: 

Allan T. Sponseller
Reg. No. 38,318
(509) 324-9256